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OFFICIAL INFORMAL

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/31/99

TAGS: AMGT, BL, CO, PE, EC, VE

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL INFORMAL

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FOR AMBASSADOR - DCM - POL - ECON

CLASSIFIED BY MICHAEL MEIGS ARA/AND, DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
REASON 1.5 D

FOLLOWING IS THE ASDAR FOR AUGUST 10, 1998

(S) VENEZUELA: CALDERA [REDACTED] PRESIDENT
CALDERA [REDACTED] HAS GREATLY REDUCED HIS HOURS IN
THE OFFICE AND FOCUSES [REDACTED] ON MAKING
PERIODIC PUBLIC APPEARANCES. THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR HAS

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BEGUN TO ASSUME THE MAJORITY OF CALDERA, S INTERNAL

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J OLSON
DATE/CASE ID: 16 JUL 2009 200503654

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LEADERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES. ACCORDING TO REPORTS, INTERIOR MINISTER AGUILAR AND OTHER CABINET OFFICIALS OFTEN CONSULT WITH DEMOCRATIC ACTION PARTY CHAIRMAN AND PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE ALFARO UCERO BEFORE MAKING DEFINITIVE GOVERNMENT POLICY DECISIONS.

(U) COLOMBIA: SERRANO STAYS; BONNET, GALAN ETC. GO. AS EXPECTED, PASTRANA HAS MOVED QUICKLY TO SHAKE UP THE MILITARY COMMAND. THE ONLY PERSON WHO WILL STAY IS CNP HEAD GENERAL SERRANO. THE NEW CINC IS MG TAPIAS, THE NEW COLAR HEAD IS JORGE MORA RANGEL; GENERAL STAFF HEAD IS RAFAEL HERNANDEZ, WITH JOSE MANUEL SANDOVAL AS A? HEAD AND ADMIRAL SERGIO GARCIA AS NAVY HEAD. EMBASSY CABLE COMING SOONEST.

(U) VENEZUELA: PEACEFUL KICK-OFF TO CAMPAIGNING ON
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SATURDAY HUGO CHAVEZ, IRENE SAEZ AND ALRARO UCERO LED PARADES AROUND CARACAS NEIGHBORHOODS. CHAVEZ DREW THE LARGEST CROWDS, WITH AD CANDIDATE UCERO SECOND (EVEN THOUGH AT THE BOTTON OF POLLS) . UCERO AND CHAVEZ PARADES MET IN CHACAO, SAEZ'S STRONGHOLD, WITH NO INCIDENT BEYOND THROWING A FEW WATER BALLOONS. SALAS ROMER, SECOND IN THE POLLS, PLAYED THE STATESMAN BY ATTENDING THE PASTRANA INAUGURATION. LOCAL TV SHOWED SALAS ROMER DISCUSSING THE PEACE PROCESS AND FRONTIER PROBLEMS WITH PASTRANA.
ALBRIGHT

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